Info-Hams Digest   Tue, 27 Jul 93   Volume 93 : Issue 909

Today's Topics:
                   Amateur Radio public service
        ARRL Internet connection (was: Re: STILL waiting ...)
                         Fixing the books
                         historic question
          information needed on region 8's tech license....
                       ITU Geneva, guest licence?
                          Kenwood TM721A
                 Opinions wanted: DJ-580 vs. FT-530
                   S meters and modern technology
      STILL waiting for your license? Read this and weep! (5 msgs)
             Which satellite(s) can I hear on 10 meters?

Date: 27 Jul 93 12:24:20 EDT
From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Amateur Radio public service
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, ka6etb@GRAFex.Cupertino.CA.US (KA6ETB Steve Harding)
writes:
writes:

>Not everyone enjoys NTS as much as I used to (and will again, once I finish
>off this big project to which I am committed). But everyone should, at
>least, be familiar with it.

Yeah, I used to be active on NTS nets, then I got too busy at home. But I
don't think it would do any harm if every amateur spend a couple of weeks
checking into formal, directed nets and relaying NTS traffic, just for the
sake of building skills. I personally believe that it's a good idea for every
amateur to at least get familiar with all types of amateur modes and
activities. It at least lets you know what you're missing!

CUL es 73 de BB

 ""
 Brian Battles, WS1O   I Tel   203-666-1541, ext 222 I "Radio amateurs
 QST Features Editor   I Fax   203-665-7531   I   do it with
 ARRL HQ   I Internet bbattles@arrl.org   I great frequency"
 Newington, CT USA   I Amprnet ws1o@ws1o.ampr.org   I
 """ .

Date: 27 Jul 93 09:03:10 EDT
From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
Subject: ARRL Internet connection (was: Re: STILL waiting ...)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, ttolh@shell.portal.com (Todd Tolhurst) writes:

>In rec.radio.amateur.misc, jherndo@eis.calstate.edu (John Herndon) writes:

>> Paraphrase -- <the ARRL shouldn't have a good internet connection>

>Ya just can't please some people.

>Keep upgrading your connectivity, ARRL. Some of us actually
>appreciate it, although it might be hard to discren that through
>all the habitual bitching.

As Jon Bloom explained, we will, just as soon as circumstances allow.
I also plan on continuing the evolution of the server, up to whatever
limit our phone connection will allow. Right now we are running MS-DOS
machines with homebrew software and some of the software bugs make this
a slightly unstable net platform. I really don't dare increase the
server activity by much until we get UNIX based along with a better
connection and more complete service.

And we do know that both those who praise the ARRL as being able to
do no wrong and those who claim that we do no right are off base by
about the same amount. Most folks appreciate the ARRL for the good things
and would like to change those things they think are not correct. I

think we need both the praise and the criticism, so let 'em bitch; it
really does us some good. :-).

73 from ARRL HQ, Ed

Ed Hare, KA1CV   ehare@arrl.org
American Radio Relay League
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111   "You will never put the puzzle together
(203) 666-1541 - voice   if you keep putting all of the pieces
ARRL Laboratory Supervisor   back in the box." Colleen
RFI, xmtr and rcvr testing

Date: 27 Jul 93 15:37:17 EDT
From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Fixing the books
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, a-kevinp@microsoft.COM (Kevin Purcell, Rho) writes:
>Why did the directors recently increase the requirements for
>eligibility to become a Director? They now require a candidate to be a
>member of the ARRL continuously for 4 years at the point of nomination.
>Note: to be a full member of the ARRL you have to be a licensed amateur.
>
>This means that no recent amateur (for example, a Technician) cannot
>stand to against a current director until 1994 at the earliest and in
>my case until mid 1996.
>
>They are cooking the books against dissent.
>
>Anyone for President for Life?
>
>Kevin Purcell N7WIM / G8UDP
>a-kevinp@microsoft.com
>Sit simplex, stulte!
>

Just when I thought it was safe to go on Usenet.....
An attack comes from another quarter! Some people sure
are paranoid! Here's the truth:

The rules used to state: "must have been licensed and
a Full Member of the League for a continuous term of
at least four years immediately prior to the _election_"

(emphasis mine).

The rules for Section Manager elections stated 'immediately preceding recipt of a petition for nomination.' (It's two years for Section Managers.) The change makes the two requirements similar in intent.

Because of the timing of receipt of nominating petition, receipt of statement, mailing of ballots, receipt of ballots and counting of ballots, several months pass between receipt of petition and declaration of a winning candidate. Making the four-year membership requirement effective on the date the nominating petition is received saves the nominators the trouble of counting in the months ahead. If your candidate will have four years as a member on the date you deliver the petition, you're set.

I'm looking at page 65 of July 1992 _QST_. It says petitions must have been received by noon, August 21, 1992. Ballots were mailed October 1, and had to be back at Hq by noon November 20. This adds three months to the membership requirement of a Board candidate--hardly the stuff of Idi Amin or Papa Doc!

Next?

Jim

--
jkearman@arrl.org

Date: 27 Jul 93 12:14:29 EDT
From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
Subject: historic question
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, dnewkirk@arrl.org (Dave Newkirk) writes:
>In rec.radio.amateur.misc, dadams@cray.com (David Adams) writes:

>>Why was Amateur Radio shut down in WWI? Fear of Espionage? Why was it
>>not shut down in other wars?

>Yes, Amateur Radio was shut down in WWI for fear of espionage.
>It was shut down in WWII for basically the same reason. There's a
>difference, though: During WWI, the order was that you had to
>lower your antenna to the ground and totally disconnect it (and

>your ground system) from *all* of your radio gear. There was to
>be neither amateur sending *nor receiving* -- again, out of fear
>of espionage. (Broadcasting wasn't affected because there wasn't
>any radio broadcasting then!) It wasn't even legal to test an
>amateur transmitter into a dummy antenna--the question was
>officially asked and officially answered with a very official
>*No!*

>During World War II, you could at least *listen*.

   Hmmm...my mother, who is 66, recalls her parents (Italian immigrants; I
don't recall if they were naturalized citizens) having to turn their
shortwave-capable broadcast receivers (which many were, at that time) to some
sort of official local confiscation agency for the duration. I wonder if that
was some kind of local/state regulation or if it applied to all (noncitizen?)
residents of the US? (BTW, my grandparents had six sons who fought in combat
during WWII; seems strange yet typical that a government agency would believe
that a couple who would have their children risk their lives to defend the US
could somehow compromise national security by listening to foreign radio
transmissions.)

73 de BB

 ""
 Brian Battles, WS1O   I Tel   203-666-1541, ext 222 I "Radio amateurs
 QST Features Editor   I Fax   203-665-7531   I   do it with
 ARRL HQ   I Internet bbattles@arrl.org   I great frequency"
 Newington, CT USA   I Amprnet ws1o@ws1o.ampr.org   I
 """.

Date: 27 Jul 93 12:53:17 EDT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!
darwin.sura.net!wvnvms.wvnet.edu!un027713@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: information needed on region 8's tech license....
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Jul26.232918.1854@uhura.neoucom.edu>, wtm@uhura.neoucom.edu (Bill
Mayhew) writes:
> The most recent N8 call sign I've heard is N8ZCA. That was issued

I've someone at our local club got her N8Z?? call within the last 2 months.
My guess is that they are out out of them by now.

> about a month or so ago. A few more VE sessions and we'll be
> hearing NA8 calls, or whatever comes next.

Actually, they'll be either KB8xxx or KC8xxx. When they run out of group C
calls (N8xxx) they move to the group D calls (KB8xxx).

>
> As Ron Popeil would say: N8 amateur license, perfect for all
> occasions. Comes in handy size suitable for wall mounting.
> Special pocket size lincense with transferrable :-) laser print
> included at no additional cost. So you don't forget, send your
> form 610 before midnight tonight! Quantities limited.
> Please allow eight to ten weeks for delivery. Satisfaction
> guaranteed (maybe?).
>
>
> --
> Bill Mayhew   NEOUCOM Computer Services Department
> Rootstown, OH 44272-9995 USA   phone: 216-325-2511
> wtm@uhura.neoucom.edu   amateur radio 146.58: N8WED

--
Jack Forester, Jr. N8XVA/AA (Yes, I'm keeping my call)
West Virginia University Computing Services
un027713@wvnvaxa.wvnet.edu -or- jlf@nameserv.csc.wvu.edu

Date: 27 Jul 93 12:06:06 EDT
From: psinntp!arrl.org@uunet.uu.net
Subject: ITU Geneva, guest licence?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, bbattles@arrl.org (Brian Battles WS1O) writes:

>In rec.radio.amateur.misc, ajk@pcs.dec.com (Anton J. Kuchelmeister Digital-PCS)
writes:

>> Does anybody have the information on how to get a temporary guest licence
>> for operating the ham radio station at ITU in Geneva?

> Contact the friendly folks at the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch (RIB)
>at ARRL HQ in Newington, Connecticut (203-666-1541). They'll be happy to help
>you!

Don't forget their email address. Try:

     John Hennessee, KJ4KB, Regulatory   jhenness@arrl.org
        Information Specialist (Regulatory
        questions, "Washington Mailbox" column,
        FCC Rule Book)

73 from ARRL HQ, Ed

Ed Hare, KA1CV   ehare@arrl.org
American Radio Relay League
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111   "You will never put the puzzle together
(203) 666-1541 - voice   if you keep putting all of the pieces
ARRL Laboratory Supervisor   back in the box." Colleen
RFI, xmtr and rcvr testing

Date: 28 Jul 93 00:14:12 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!csd4.csd.uwm.edu!pachner@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Kenwood TM721A
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

My friend just bought a Kenwood TM721A. It is modified to Tx/Rx from 100-200
and from 400-500. He's curious to know how the unit was modified.

--
Thomas Jay Pachner -=- Music Major, Bassist, Gamer, and Amateur Operator
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee - pachner@csd4.csd.uwm.edu
Appreciator of all kinds of true music (sorry rap and country)
Amateur Call Sign: waiting since July 10 (it's worse than tax returns)

Date: 28 Jul 93 00:26:06 GMT
From: news!sun1.clark.net!andy@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Opinions wanted: DJ-580 vs. FT-530
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Andrew Krenz (uznerk@mcl.ucsb.edu) wrote:
: Subject pretty much says it all: While I'm sitting here waiting for the FCC
: to mail me my license, I'd like to gather some opinions as to which is the
: better dual bander for the money: the Alinco or the Yaesu.

If you really want to get down to the nitty-gritty, here's one thing that
annoys me about my Alinco: The 12 vdc input is on right side, making the
unit awkward and annoying to hand-hold when operating from external power.
The Yaesu's dc input is on the top, and it doesn't get in your way. Also,
the Alinco gets hot enough to light charcoal when operating in the high
power position with 12 external power. Great if you're stranded in the

Siberian wilderness on a cold winter night, but otherwise...

-K4ADL

--------------------------- Disclaimer -------------------------------------
All opinions expressed by the author are coincidental and not to be construed.

Date: 27 Jul 93 23:24:31 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: S meters and modern technology
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

S Meters and Modern Technology

>Professional color camera systems have a similar problem. They have to

>maintain a given gain response under all environmental and aging

>conditions in each channel in order to maintain proper colormetry.

>That's done by taking an attenuated reference signal and injecting it into

>the preamps and adjusting the system gains so that the signals come out of

>the RGB channels at the proper amplitude. This CAL pulse is similar in

>concept to the frequency calibration markers in use in radios, except it's

>an amplitude reference rather than a frequency reference.

>It should be relatively simple to implement a log stepped amplitude

>reference in a radio and have the radio automatically insert and

>measure this reference at each band change, or power up. That would

>give it a self calibration check that would compensate automatically

>for variations in stage gain.

>Gary

That sounds pretty workable to me!

And Kevin had this idea that also sounds quite reasonable, not to

mention do-able.

>One simple way of calibrating rigs would be to use a marker generator

>that generates a very fast pulse (a few nS from a 74F00 or a schottky

>diode) at say 1Mhz rep-rate (just the old crystal calibrator with a

>fast switch). By using a very short pulse you will get almost equal

>contributions in all the harmonics (remeber your Fourier transform

>theory?) so there are no problems calibrating the frequency response of

>the reference oscillator. Then add a switchable attenuator (wouldn't

>need many levels perhaps even a PIN diode attenuator controlled by a

>DAC) and some software. Just a SMOP :-)

Notice how close the two ideas are in concept!

>Question to the person who said that the IARU region one has a standard

>5.6dB S unit. Why 5.6dB? Why not just define S9 as 50uV in 50 ohms

No one said the IARU said; you mixed up a couple of separate statements

there. I'm the one that said 5.6db per, assuming nine full steps. The

IARU suggested, as stated by David Newkirk, exactly what you said! Which

makes the step a full 6db per. But then the question becomes how many db

are there between S-whatever and S1? As you say, the equipment we have

available today, provides a good deal more usuable sensitivity down in

this range. If the radio's noise floor was -138dbm, that would mean

the first full step (the ninth) could represent as much as 17db! A

signal could be as much as 17db stronger than the noise floor of the

radio, and be just an S1!

All of this just supports the dubious nature of the beast, doesn't it?

And this is another reason why the dbuv scale just makes so much good

sense! It doesn't suffer from this problem of interpretation at all!

.1uv (-128dbm) is -20db on this scale, not somewhere between S-whatever

and S1!

>(-73dBm) and left S1 be 48dB less (there are 8 6dB steps from s9 to s1)

>at -121dBm. This is also strange given the noise floorin most RXs these

Yep, that's right! That is precisely why I asked in a previous note

if anyone knew where/when and by whom the concept of the S-meter was

started. I wonder also. Like it seems as tho' it was likely quite

some time ago, when the equipment available had noise floors at

-120dbm or so at best, instead of what we have today.

>days is < -135dBm (under the band noise). The thermal noise floor is

>only -148dBm in 500Hz at 298K.

And today, there exists many newer technology radios that already use

the segment displays instead of the analog S-meter. I presume these

segment displays are driven by the comparator type chips that accept

an analog input and provide discreet outputs at some db step interval

of the input. Now, all we'd need to add is something like Gary's or

Kevin's suggested calibration mechanism to compensate for the gain

variation and wa-la, we'd be pretty darn close, huh?

Paul

WB2OYC

ar..

Date: 27 Jul 93 16:05:53 GMT
From: furuta@MIMSY.CS.UMD.EDU
Subject: STILL waiting for your license? Read this and weep!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1786@arrl.org| bjahnke@arrl.org (Bart Jahnke) writes:
[large portion deleted]
|
|When is it keyboarded? The 2nd to the last step in their [the FCC's]
|process--which
|is on a Tuesday (about five to seven weeks after they have received).
|
|What is the last step? Two days later (the same week, on that Thursday), the
|license is laser printed and mailed. You then receive it via first-class mail
|within the next few days.

```
|
|73,
|
|Bart J. Jahnke, KB9NM
|Manager
|ARRL/VEC
```

Bart, your message did an excellent job of explaining why it can take
a VEC a significant amount of time to process a license application.
Do you know what steps the FCC goes through once the license arrives
in Gettysburg? It might help us gain a better appreciation of the
reasons for the total wait time if you could describe that part of the
process also.

                        --Rick
                          KE3IV

Date: Tue, 27 Jul 1993 17:18:26 GMT
From: spsgate!mogate!newsgate!news@uunet.uu.net
Subject: STILL waiting for your license? Read this and weep!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <233b7e$pvo@news.acns.nwu.edu> rdewan@casbah.acns.nwu.edu (Rajiv
Dewan) writes:
> ... I am accredited with ARRL-VEC, W5YI-VEC and
> GLARC-VEC (Great Lakes ARC). We had many more problems with W5YI
> than we ever did with others. Not that they are bad, they are just
> set up differently...

I'd have to back Rajiv up on this. Our club VE team started out with W5YI
and had several problems with misplaced and lost paperwork over about a
year period. At one point, the head of our team even went to the W5YI
office (he happened to be in the area) to talk to Fred about a certain
application that had been misplaced. I don't know the details of what
transpired, but when he returned our team promptly changed to ARRL. In
over a year we haven't had a single paperwork problem with the ARRL VEC.

Also, I'm curious about the implication that the other VECs are faster
than the ARRL VEC. Are there any statistics about turnaround times for
the various VECs? Not just anecdotal data but real numbers?

73...   Mark   AA7TA

Date: Tue, 27 Jul 1993 17:52:50 GMT

From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!
newsrelay.iastate.edu!news.iastate.edu!IASTATE.EDU!wjturner@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: STILL waiting for your license? Read this and weep!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Jul27.171826.22971@newsgate.sps.mot.com>,
markm@bigfoot.sps.mot.com (Mark Monninger) writes:

> Also, I'm curious about the implication that the other VECs are faster
> than the ARRL VEC. Are there any statistics about turnaround times for
> the various VECs? Not just anecdotal data but real numbers?

I am by no means an expert, but I would think that ARCs that have their own
VEC--I think the Des Moines Radio Amateur Association does--would be quicker
just because they have less paperwork to deal with. This could also go the
other way, I suppose, since the larger VECs might have a larger staff
(professional or volunteer) to do the paperwork.

73, Will, N0RDV

Date: Tue, 27 Jul 1993 16:22:41 GMT
From: concert!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!agate!linus!linus.mitre.org!mitre.org!
eubanks@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: STILL waiting for your license? Read this and weep!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <22ojraINNd76@sweetpea.genrad.com> dls@genrad.com (Diana L.
Carlson) writes:
>>..(moaning/complaining deleted)
> I suspect the story is the same with W5YI and all other VECs.
>
> THANK YOU, ARRL AND W5YI AND ALL THE REST, FOR THE SERVICES YOU PROVIDE.
>
> It would be nice to hear more positive items on this net instead of the
> constant code-nocode battles, or the incessant ARRL criticisms and
blamings.
> I know, that WOULD be asking too much.

"Amen, Diana. A voice of truth crying in the wilderness!".   [AND THANKS
for your work on Hamstacks, it is an excellent program.]

I also am a VE and loyal member of the League.   Please no flames on
League loyalty, it is of no concern to the issue at hand - stressful
delays for a ticket. Stick to the subject and possible solutions - maybe
this can be fixed.

Ignoring nastiness and rudeness, the moans and complaints do echo a real
problem - those long delays in waiting for that first ticket. If one
organization appears to get results a little faster, no matter, the delay
is still greater than it ought to be. Every new successful examinee goes
through 2 and a half months of great stress waiting to get on the air. I
remember my first exam back in 1957 - I waited for the postman every day
(just to do low powered, crystal controlled CW), it was 8-9 weeks then too.

I would like to see a VE-issued, temporary callsign that allows operation
at the earned level of achievement, or a subset - say just VHF privileges,
until the actual ticket arrives. The callsigns could be of a unique
format, something like "WT9876AB"; where "WT" or WN" correspond to Tech or
Novice; "9876" corresponds to a specific VE session & is assigned in
blocks by the VEC organization.   The format provides an expiration code
derived from the specifc VE session - say, the last day of the 3rd month
following the session. The local examiners retain the particulars on the
call/name/address/date.   Another format is fine if there's a problem with
this one.

This solution is easy to implement and requires no upgrading of federal
computing facilities. It is basically an adaptation of the temporary
upgrade process. Legitimate neo-licensees pose no new threat to ham
radio, we already have bootleggers on all bands and non-bands using
someone else's call (I've heard my own - maybe you've heard yours too). A
new operator is no more dangerous to the local repeater on the day of the
exam than 9 weeks later.

Vern Eubanks, AA7EI
"eubanks@mitre.org"

These are my personal opinions only.

Date: 27 Jul 93 04:40:24 GMT
From: anomaly.sbs.com!kd1nr!system@uunet.uu.net
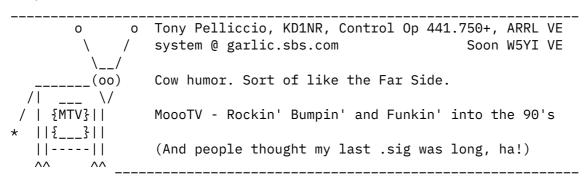Subject: STILL waiting for your license? Read this and weep!
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

bjahnke@arrl.org (Bart Jahnke) writes:

>>What size does the license copy have to be trimmed to?
>
> To the border of the pocket or certificate sized license (where it
> states to "cut along this line").

Bart,

Isn't this sort of a ridiculous requirement of the FCC? I'm surprised
that nobody has seen fit to introduce a proposal to eliminate that part
of the process.

Tony

Date: 27 Jul 1993 17:46:24 GMT
From: usenet.coe.montana.edu!netnews.nwnet.net!news.u.washington.edu!
stein.u.washington.edu!algol@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Which satellite(s) can I hear on 10 meters?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

    I have Trakstar and the TLEs. Can someone tell me which satellite(s)
I should listen for on 10 meters? I'd like to hear anything -- beacons, tele-
metry, whatever.
    This is all very new to me, a QRP CW HF-er, but I'd like to give it a
try, especially now that my brother the science teacher is coming for a visit.
    I appreciate your help!

    Sherm Lovell, WY7F   algol@u.washington.edu

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #909
****